

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00203 112032Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 /116 W

-----112050Z 013197 /62

P 111732Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9088

CONFIDENTIAL NASSAU 0203

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, PBOR, BF, US
SUBJ: US/BAHAMAS MARITIME BOUNDARIES

REF: NASSAU 0194, STATE 28377

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL EMBASSY REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FEB 9 FOR AMBASSADOR TO CALL ON P.M. PINDLING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED CONSULTATION ON U.S. FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT ZONE WHICH HAD BEEN REJECTED BY MINEXTAFF. REQUEST WAS MADE THROUGH RODNEY BAIN, SECRETARY TO THE CABINET, WHO PROMISED TO DISCUSS MATTER SOONEST WITH P.M. BAIN NOTIFIED EMBASSY ON FEBRUARY 10 THAT GIVEN FACT THAT P.M. WAS "NOT UP ON THE DETAILS" AND "LACKS SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE TO DISCUSS MATTER" PINDLING HAD SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR "PURSUE MATTER WITH MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY UNTIL THAT ROUTE HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED" AND TO KEEP BAIN INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

2. DESPITE FACT THAT PROPOSAL TO CONSULT HAD BEEN CATEGORICALLY REJECTED BY MINEXTAFF PERMSEC RUSSELL ON EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION OF MINISTER ADDERLEY, EMBASSY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 00203 112032Z

DECIDED TO FOLLOW PROPOSAL AS IT 1) WAS SUGGESTED BY P.M. AND 2) THERE WAS POSSIBILITY THAT ADDERLEY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY P.M. TO CHANGE HIS POSITION. AS A RESULT AMBASSADOR - AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELAY ON ADDERLEY'S PART - WAS ABLE TO REACH HIM BY TELEPHONE LATE AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 10. IN LENGTHY FIFTEEN MINUTE CONVERSATION ADDERLEY REJECTED AT LEAST A DOZEN

TIMES AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS MATTER PERSONALLY AND FURTHER STATED THAT: 1) PERMSEC RUSSELL HAD IN FACT BEEN SPEAKING TO HIM WHEN HE HAD REJECTED PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS AS BEING "PREMATURE" AND NOT BEING "CONSTRUCTIVE AT THIS TIME", 2) EVEN IF CONSULTATIONS TOOK PLACE GCOB WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ANYTHING MORE THAN A "GENERAL OUTLINE OF THEIR POSITION, WHICH POSITION MAY OR MAY NOT BE THAT PRESENTED TO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE THAT APPROVED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY THE HOUSE, AND 3) HE REJECTED ARGUMENTS THAT CONSULTATIONS COULD BE OF ANY BENEFIT TO GCOB EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH OUR ENFORCEMENT PLANS AND THE RATIONALE AND PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THOSE PLANS ARE BASED. IN ADDITION ADDERLEY EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT WE WOULD ACTUALLY BEGIN ENFORCING FISHING ZONE LIMITS ON MARCH 1ST AND CHAGRIN THAT GCOB HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN "ADVANCE WARNING OF FISHING ZONE LEGISLATIONS ENACTMENT IN JANUARY. DESPITE AMBASSADOR'S PATIENCE AND LENGTHY EXPLANATIONS, ADDERLEY REMAINED ADAMANT THAT NOTHING COULD BE SERVED BY CONSULTATIONS AT THIS TIME. HE DID ALLOW HOWEVER, THAT HOUSE ACTION MIGHT BE COMPLETED ON BAHAMIAN LEGISLATION BY MARCH 1ST, 7TH, OR 10TH AND THAT WE WOULD BE RECEIVING "SHORTLY" WRITTEN NOTICE OF GCOB'S INTENT TO EXTEND MARITIME BOUNDARY.

3. EMBASSY REPORTED GIST OF AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH ADDERLEY TO BAIN ON FEB 11 ASKING BAIN'S ADVICE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 00203 112032Z

ON WHAT STEPS SHOULD NOW BE TAKEN. BAIN SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY MIGHT CONSIDER SENDING A NOTE TO MINEXTAFF STATING IN SOME DETAIL WHAT IT WAS THAT WE WISHED TO DISCUSS SAYING THAT ONCE REDUCED TO WRITING AND PRESENTED FORMALLY A RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. HE WAS TOLD THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE SOMEWHAT REDUNDANT GIVEN FACT THAT ALL CONCERNED WERE AWARE OF MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED I.E. WHETHER GCOB AGREED TO LISTEN TO OUR POSITION ON THE FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT ZONE, AND THAT ANSWER FROM MINEXTAFF HAD BEEN AN UNEQUIVACABLE "NO, NOT AT THIS TIME." HE PROMISED TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS TO P.M.

4. WHATEVER THE REASONS WHICH PROMPTED ADDERLEY TO BOX HIMSELF IN ON POSITION THAT THERE WILL NOT NOW BE CONSULTATIONS, HE REFUSES TO BUDGE. P.M. IS EITHER UNWILLING TO COUNTERMAND HIM, WHICH COULD RISK A PERSONAL OR PERHAPS EVEN A POLITICAL SCHISM, OR ALTERNATIVELY, IS CONVINCED THAT IT IS, BY SOME ARCANE

REASONING, BETTER TACTICALLY TO BE LEFT IN THE DARK
WITH REGARD TO U.S. INTENTIONS AND TO BE PRESENTED
WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI ON MARCH 1ST. WE BELIEVE THAT NOTHING MORE
CAN BE GAINED ON THIS END - EITHER BY SENDING NOTE OR
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS - AND ESPECIALLY SO GIVEN THE
SHORT AND RAPIDLY DIMINISHING TIME FRAME. THEREFORE,
IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE GCOB FROM SAYING AT SOME FUTURE DATE
THAT THEY WERE UNAWARE OF OUR INTENT WE RECOMMEND
THAT 1) DEPARTMENT CALL IN BAHAMIAN AMBASSADOR
JOHNSON, 2) HE BE RECEIVED BY AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH
LEVEL OFFICIAL, PREFERABLY IN THE COMPANY OF MR. FELDMAN,
3) HE BE INFORMED OF OUR REGRET NOT ONLY THAT HIS
GOVERNMENT HAD REJECTED OFFER TO CONSULT BUT THAT IT HAS
BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR AMBASSADOR TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH
APPROPRIATE LEVEL GCOB OFFICIALS EVEN TO DISCUSS
RATIONALE FOR CONSULTATIONS AND THIS IN THE ABSENCE
OF EVEN THE SLIGHTEST INDICATION FROM GCOB THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NASSAU 00203 112032Z

CONSULTATIONS MIGHT PRESENT A PROBLEM, 4) HE BE GIVEN
AN OUTLINE OF WHAT IT IS WE PROPOSE TO DO ON MARCH 1ST
WITH REGARD TO ENFORCEMENT OF FISHERIES ZONE AND 5) HE
BE REQUESTED TO REPORT CONVERSATIONS SOONEST TO HIS
MINISTRY. WE FURTHER SUGGEST THAT GIST OF OUR POSITION,
REDUCED TO WRITING, BE GIVEN JOHNSON AT THIS TIME.

5. EMBASSY PLANS TO DO NOTHING MORE ON THIS MATTER
PENDING RECEIPT OF FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT.
TAYLOR

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NNN

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